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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL];
Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

H. [GB/GB]; c/o Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).
RANKIN, Paul, J. [GB/GB]; c/o Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).

(74) Agent: **WHITE, Andrew, G.**; Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).

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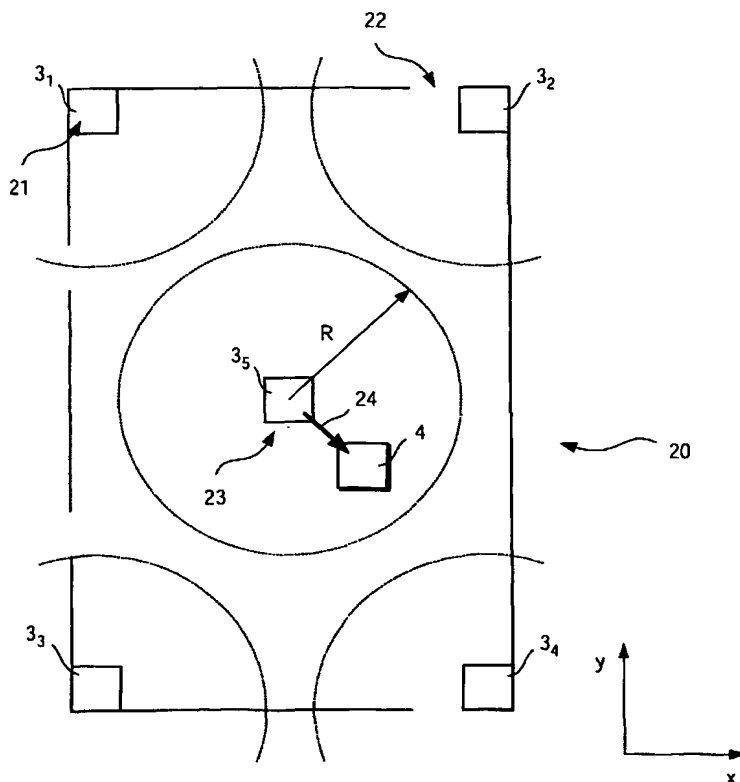
(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **EVANS, David**,

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR LOCATING A MOBILE UNIT



(57) Abstract: A wireless local area network (LAN) comprises an access point which transmits a beacon signal at 0 dBm. The detection threshold of the mobile unit is -65 dBm and thus the mobile unit is detected when located within 10 metres of the access point.



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DESCRIPTION

SYSTEM FOR LOCATING A MOBILE UNIT

5 The present invention relates to a system for locating a mobile unit, particularly, although not exclusively which includes a wireless local area network (LAN).

10 It is desirable to locate a mobile unit, such as a cellular telephone handset or personal data assistant (PDA), so as to provide customised services, such as targeting advertisements at potential customers passing a shop.

15 It is known to locate a mobile unit using the global positioning system (GPS). However, GPS, particularly for mass-market use, suffers several drawbacks. Firstly, it is costly to manufacture a mobile unit including a GPS receiver. Secondly, there is delay in locating the mobile unit when it is first switched on. Thirdly, it is difficult to locate a mobile unit when it is positioned indoors.

20 It is also known to locate a mobile unit using wireless local area networks (LANs). For example, it is possible to locate a mobile unit relative to fixed units using so-called "time of arrival" (TOA) method in which a time delay is used to calculate the distance between a fixed and a mobile unit. However, the TOA method yields coarse results which are accurate to no more than about 100 metres. A more accurate method uses "time difference of arrival" (TDOA) in which a mobile unit receives signals at different times. However, the TDOA method requires multiple fixed units. Another method employs high chipping rates used to spread a signal across a wider bandwidth. The higher chipping rates use shorter pulse lengths, which provides improved resolution.

25 A mobile unit may be more accurately located by exchanging information with fixed units and other mobile units, as described in "An Overview of Positioning by Diffusion" by Michael Spratt, Hewlett-Packard Laboratories, Bristol, UK, 9 September 2001.

The present invention seeks to provide a system for locating a mobile unit. According to the present invention there is provided a system for locating a mobile unit including means for transmitting a first signal at a relatively high power, means for transmitting a second signal at a predetermined, relatively low power, means for receiving said first signal, means for determining a first signal strength of said first signal at said means for receiving said first signal, means for determining whether said first signal strength exceeds a relatively low threshold level so as to determine whether service may be provided, means for receiving said second signal, means for determining a second signal strength of said second received at received at said means for receiving said second signal, means for determining whether said second signal strength exceeds a relatively high threshold level so as to locate the mobile unit within a known distance of said means for transmitting said second signal.

The relatively high power may be at least 0 dBm, 6 dBm, 13 dBm or 20 dBm. The relatively low power may be no more than 0 dBm. The relatively low threshold level may be no more than -85 dBm. The relatively high threshold level may be no less than -65 dBm. The means for transmitting said first and second signals may transmit the first and second signals at different times.

The system may be a wireless local area network. The means for transmitting the first signal may be an access point and the means for transmitting the second signal may also be an access point. The means for receiving the first signal may be a mobile unit and the means for receiving the first signal may also be a mobile unit.

The means for transmitting the first signal may be a mobile unit and the means for transmitting the second signal may also be a mobile unit. The means for receiving the first signal may be an access point and the means for receiving the second signal may also be an access point.

According to the present invention there is also provided a system for locating a mobile unit including a first transmitter for transmitting a first signal at a relatively high power, a second transmitter for transmitting a second signal

at a predetermined, relatively low power, a first receiver for receiving said first signal, a first detector for determining a first signal strength of said first signal at said first receiver, a first controller for determining whether said first signal strength exceeds a relatively low threshold level so as to determine whether
5 service may be provided, a second receiver for receiving said second signal, a second detector for determining a second signal strength of said second signal at said second receiver, a second controller for determining whether said second signal strength exceeds a relatively high threshold level so as to locate the mobile unit within a known distance of said means for transmitting said
10 second signal.

According to the present invention there is also provided a method of operating the system.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described, by way of
15 example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of a wireless local area network;

Figure 2 is a schematic diagram of a access point

Figure 3 is a schematic diagram of a mobile unit;

Figure 4 shows the wireless local area network of Figure 1 deployed in
20 a room;

Figure 5 shows a relationship between power of a signal received at a mobile unit and distance between the mobile unit and a transmitter;

Figure 6 is a plot of transmitted power against time;

Figure 7 is a plot of detection threshold against time;

25 Figure 8 is another plot of transmitted power against time;

Figure 9 is another plot of transmitter power against time;

Figure 10 shows regions in which a mobile unit may be located and

Figure 11 shows the wireless local area network of Figure 1 deployed in
a room in another configuration.

30

Referring to Figure 1, a system for locating a mobile unit according to the present invention is shown. The system comprises a wireless local access

network (LAN) 1 including a wired network 2 and a plurality of access points 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅. A mobile unit 4 is connectable to the wireless LAN 1 via a wireless link 5. In this example, the wireless network 1 and mobile unit 4 are connectable using radio frequency signals operating in the 2.4 GHz band according to the IEEE 802.11 standard.

Referring to Figure 2, each access point 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ comprises a connector 6 to the wired network 2, an input/output section 7, a data processing section 8, a radio frequency section 9, an antenna 10 and a controller section 11. The input/output section 7 transmits and receives data to and from the wired network 2 and, amongst other things, buffers data. The processing section 8 for instance applies error protection/error detection routines and encrypts/decrypts data. The radio frequency section 9 for example modulates and demodulates signals and amplifies them. The input/output section 7, the data processing section 8, the radio frequency section 9 are controlled by the controller section 11.

Referring to Figure 3, the mobile unit 4 comprises a personal computer 12, such as a lap-top computer, and a wireless transmitter/receiver 13, for example in the form of a wireless network card. The wireless transmitter/receiver 13 comprises a connector 14 to the personal computer 12, an input/output section 15, a data processing section 16, a radio frequency section 17, an antenna 18 and a controller section 19, and have substantially the same functions as the corresponding sections of the wireless access point.

Further details regarding the wireless LAN 1 and the wireless transmitter/receiver 13 are described in Chapter 5 of "Deploying Wireless LANs" by Gil Held (McGraw-Hill, 2002).

Referring to Figure 4, the access points 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ are deployed in a room 20. In this example, the access points 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ are positioned in corners 21 of the room 20, some of which are located by doorways 22, and in the centre 23. The positions of the access points 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ are known and may be labelled (x₁, y₁), (x₂, y₂), (x₃, y₃), (x₄, y₄) and (x₅, y₅) respectively.

The mobile unit 4 may be located using an access point 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅, as will now be explained:

Each access point 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ is a transmitter and receiver. An access point 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ can transmit a signal at a selectable transmission power level, P_{tx} . In this example, there are four selectable power levels, namely 20 dBm (100 mW), 13 dBm (20 mW), 6 dBm (4 mW) and 0 dBm (1 mW). Other power levels may be used. For example, the highest power level may be 30 dBm (1000mW).

The mobile unit 4 is also a transmitter and receiver. The mobile unit 4 can measure the power of a signal received by the antenna 18 and define a received signal strength indication (RSSI). This may be implemented in the rf section 17 (Figure 3). In this example, there are 16 RSSI levels ranging from level 0, which corresponds to a minimum detection level, in this case -85 dBm, to level 15 which corresponds to a maximum allowable input level, in this example -10dBm, in 5 dBm intervals.

The mobile unit 4 sets a detection threshold, P_{det} . In this example, setting the detection threshold comprises measuring the signal strength and determining whether the received signal strength equals or exceeds the detection threshold. In an alternative embodiment, setting the detection threshold may comprises selecting a gain of the receiver 4, which limits the level of signal which can be detected, and determining whether a signal is detected.

Referring also to Figure 5, a signal 24 transmitted by the access point 3₅ and received at the mobile unit 4 is attenuated. The received signal strength, P_{rx} , is inversely proportional to the square of the distance, r , separating the access point 3₅ and the mobile unit 4, i.e. $P_{rx} \propto 1/r^2$. If the mobile unit 4 detects the signal 24, then the mobile unit 4 is located within a radius R of the access point 3₅.

A low transmission power level P_{tx} , for example 0dBm, and a high detection threshold P_{det} , preferably -65dBm, are selected so as locate the mobile unit 4 accurately, in this case within a radius of 10 metres of the

wireless access point 3₅. However, a higher transmission power level P_{tx} and a lower detection threshold P_{det} are used, for example for providing service.

The mobile unit 4 may be located using an access point 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ under different situations:

5

Location prior to connection to wireless LAN 1

A mobile unit 4 may access a cell served by an access point 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅, usually referred to as a basic service set (BSS), by listening for a beacon frame transmitted by an access point 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅. This process is
10 known as passive scanning. Beacon frames are defined in a medium access control (MAC) sub-layer of the IEEE 802.11 standard.

A modified passive scanning process is used to locate the mobile unit 4.

Referring to Figure 6, the access point 3₅ transmits first and second beacon signals 24₁, 24₂. The beacon signals 24₁, 24₂ are repeatedly
15 transmitted, for example every 20 milliseconds to 1 seconds, preferably every 1s. The first signal 24₁ is transmitted at a high transmission power P_1 , for example 20 dBm (100 mW), and the second signal 24₂ is transmitted at a low transmission power P_2 , in this case 0 dBm (1 mW).

Referring to Figure 7, the mobile unit 4 listens for signals in passive
20 scanning mode, measuring received signal strengths and determining whether they exceed first and second signal detection thresholds P_A , P_B respectively. The first signal detection threshold P_A is low, for example -85dBm, and the second signal detection threshold P_B is high, for example -65dBm. Thus, if a received signal has a power P_i lying between P_A and P_B ($P_A < P_i < P_B$), then it
25 exceeds P_A and is detected. However, P_i falls below P_B and is not detected.

Therefore, the detectable range R_1 for the first signal 24₁ transmitted at P_1 and detected with the first threshold P_A is usually about 100 metres assuming a clear line of sight between the mobile unit 4 and the access point 3₅. The detectable range R_2 for the second signal 24₂ transmitted at P_2 and
30 detected with the second threshold P_B is about 10 metres.

Thus, if the mobile unit 4 detects the second signal 24₂, then it is within 10 metres of the access point 3₅. The position of the access point 3₅ is

preferably included in the beacon frame to permit the mobile unit 4 to locate itself. Additionally or alternatively, the mobile unit 4 may return a signal to the access point 3₅ identifying itself and the fact that it has detected the second signal 24₂. This allows the access point 3₅ or the wireless LAN 1 to locate the mobile

Location after connection to wireless LAN 1

Once the mobile unit 4 has joined a cell, it may stay there or roam to another cell without losing a connection. In either case, the mobile unit 4 is connected to an access point 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ and may exchange management, control and data frames. However, the mobile unit 4 may monitor a low power signal using the high threshold thereby allowing the location of the mobile unit 4 to be determined.

Referring to Figure 8, the access point 3₅ transmits a third signal 24₃ comprising management, control or data frames at one or more high power levels P₃, P₄. The power levels P₃, P₄ may be adapted as power varies due to change in position of the mobile unit 4. Periodically, the access point 3₅ transmits a fourth signal 24₄ at the low power level P₂.

The mobile unit 4 determines RSSI with first and second thresholds P_A, P_B as described earlier. The detectable range R₃ for the third signal 24₃ transmitted at P₃, P₄ and measured with the first threshold P_A is about 10 to 100 metres and the detectable range R₄ for the fourth signal 24₄ transmitted at P₂ and measured with the second threshold P_B is about 10 metres.

Therefore, the mobile unit 4 may be provided with service by the access point 3₅ in a relatively large area, for example within a radius of between 10 and 100 metres, and should it pass near to the access point 3₅, it can be located within a smaller area, for instance within a radius of 10 metres.

Variable detection thresholds

The mobile unit 4 described earlier selects a single threshold P_B for accurate location. However, the mobile unit 4 may be modified to vary a locating threshold P_{loc}, for example from a low value P_A, to a value P_B so as

determine for example, whether it is 30 metres or 10 metres away from the access point 3₅.

Referring to Figure 9, the threshold P_{det} alternates between a value P_A used for normal operation to the locating threshold P_{loc} , the locating threshold
5 being stepped from P_A , P_C to P_B , wherein $P_A < P_C < P_B$.

Referring to Figure 10, this approach allows the mobile unit 4 to be located to varying degrees of accuracy, as indicated by circles 25₁, 25₂, 25₃ of increasing radius.

Furthermore, it allows the mobile unit 4 to be located within annuli 26₁,
10 26₂ if the mobile unit 4 is not located within an inner circle 25₁, 25₂ but is located in an outer circle 25₂, 25₃.

Further details regarding the IEEE 802.11 standard are described in Chapter 6 of "Deploying Wireless LANs" *ibid*.

15 *Different transmitters, different transmission power*

In the embodiments hereinbefore described, the wireless LAN 1 is configured such that each access point 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ multiplexes transmission power between a relatively high power for delivering service and relatively low power for locating the mobile unit 4.

20 Referring to Figure 11, the wireless LAN 1 may be alternatively configured such that it comprises a first set of access points, for example access points 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, which transmit at relative high transmission power, such as 20 dBm (100 mW), and a second set of access points, for example access point 3₅, which transmit at relatively low transmission power, for
25 instance 0 dBm (1 mW). The relatively high transmission power may be a range of relatively high transmission powers, preferably greater than 0 dBm (1 mW).

The wireless LAN 1 is arranged such that each of the access points in the second set lies within coverage of at least one access point of the first set.
30 For clarity, regions of coverage provided by third and fifth access points 3₃, 3₅ are shown. Thus, in the alternative configuration, the first set of access points can deliver service to the mobile unit 4, while the second set of access points

may be used for location. For example, the mobile unit 4 may be connected to, and provided with service by, the third access point 3₃, while passively scanning for third access point 3₅. If the mobile unit 4 receives a signal from the third access point 3₅, it may use the signal for location in the manner
5 described earlier.

The alternative arrangement has several advantages. It is simple to implement, thus reducing cost and complexity. It reduces latency and increases quality of service.

10 In the embodiments described earlier, location is performed using the access points 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ as transmitters and the mobile unit 4 as a receiver. However, the earlier embodiments may be modified such that the role of the access points 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ as transmitter and the role of the mobile unit 4 as receiver are reversed. In other words, the mobile unit 4 may
15 be configured to transmit a signal at a low transmission power, for example 0 dBm (1 mW), while the access points 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ are configured to set a high signal power detection threshold. Thus, if an access point 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ detects the signal transmitted at the low power by the mobile unit 4, the access point is able to locate the mobile unit 4 accurately. Optionally, it may
20 share location information with the mobile unit 4.

In another modification, the access point 3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅ may be used as transmitters transmitting at a high transmission power for delivering service, while the mobile unit 4 may be used as a transmitter transmitting at low transmission power for location.

25

From reading the present disclosure, other variations and modifications will be apparent to persons skilled in the art. Such variations and modifications may involve equivalent and other features which are already known in the design, manufacture and use of systems for locating mobile units and
30 component parts thereof and which may be used instead of or in addition to features already described herein. For example, an ad-hoc local area network or a plurality of devices conforming to Bluetooth™ specifications may be used

instead of the wireless LAN 1 and mobile unit 4. The mobile unit 4 may be a personal data assistant (PDA) or a cellular telephone handset.

Although Claims have been formulated in this Application to particular combinations of features, it should be understood that the scope of the disclosure of the present invention also includes any novel features or any novel combination of features disclosed herein either explicitly or implicitly or any generalisation thereof, whether or not it relates to the same invention as presently claimed in any Claim and whether or not it mitigates any or all of the same technical problems as does the present invention. The Applicants hereby give notice that new Claims may be formulated to such features and/or combinations of such features during the prosecution of the present Application or of any further Application derived therefrom.

CLAIMS

1. A system for locating a mobile unit (4) including:
- 5 means (3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅) for transmitting a first signal (24₁) at a relatively high power (P₁);
- means (3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅) for transmitting a second signal (24₂) at a predetermined, relatively low power (P₁);
- means (4) for receiving said first signal;
- 10 means (4) for determining a first signal strength of said first signal at said means for receiving said first signal;
- means (4) for determining whether said first signal strength exceeds a relatively low threshold level (P_A) so as to determine whether service may be provided;
- 15 means (4) for receiving said second signal;
- means (4) for determining a second signal strength of said second received at received at said means for receiving said second signal;
- means (4) for determining whether said second signal strength exceeds a relatively high threshold level (P_B) so as to locate the mobile unit within a
- 20 known distance (R) of said means for transmitting said second signal.

2. A system according to Claim 1, wherein said relatively high power (P₁) is at least 0 dBm.

- 25 3. A system according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said relatively high power (P₁) is at least 6 dBm, 13 dBm or 20 dBm.

4. A system according to any preceding Claim, said relatively low power (P₂) is no more than 0 dBm.

30

5. A system according to any preceding Claim, wherein said relatively low threshold level (P_A) is no more than -85 dBm.

6. A system according to any preceding Claim, wherein said relatively high threshold level (P_A) is no less than -65 dBm.

5 7. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein said means ($3_1, 3_2, 3_3, 3_4, 3_5$) for transmitting said first and second signals transmit said first and second signals ($24_1, 24_2$) at different times.

8. A system according to any preceding Claim, which is a wireless
10 local area network (1).

9. A system according to Claim 8, wherein said means ($3_1, 3_2, 3_3, 3_4, 3_5$) for transmitting said first signal (24_1) is an access point.

15 10. A system according to Claim 8 or 9, wherein said means ($3_1, 3_2, 3_3, 3_4, 3_5$) for transmitting said second signal (24_2) is an access point.

11. A system according to any one of Claims 8 to 10, wherein said means (4) for receiving said first signal (24_1) is a mobile unit.

20

12. A system according to any one of Claims 8 to 11, wherein said means (4) for receiving said second signal (24_2) is a mobile unit.

13. A system according to Claim 8, wherein said means (4) for
25 transmitting said first signal (24_1) is a mobile unit.

14. A system according to Claim 8 or 13, wherein said means (4) for transmitting said second signal (24_2) is a mobile unit.

30 15. A system according to any one of Claims 8, 13 or 14, wherein said means ($3_1, 3_2, 3_3, 3_4, 3_5$) for receiving said first signal (24_1) is an access point.

16. A system according to any one of Claim 8, 13, 14 or 15, wherein said means (3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅) for receiving said second signal (24₂) is an access point.

5

17. A system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 1 to 7 of the accompanying drawings.

18. A system for locating a mobile unit (4) including:

10 a first transmitter (9, 10) for transmitting a first signal (24₁) at a relatively high power (P₁);

a second transmitter (9, 10) for transmitting a second signal (24₂) at a predetermined, relatively low power (P₂);

a first receiver (18) for receiving said first signal;

15 a first detector (17, 16) for determining a first signal strength of said first signal at said first receiver;

a first controller (19) for determining whether said first signal strength exceeds a relatively low threshold level so as to determine whether service may be provided;

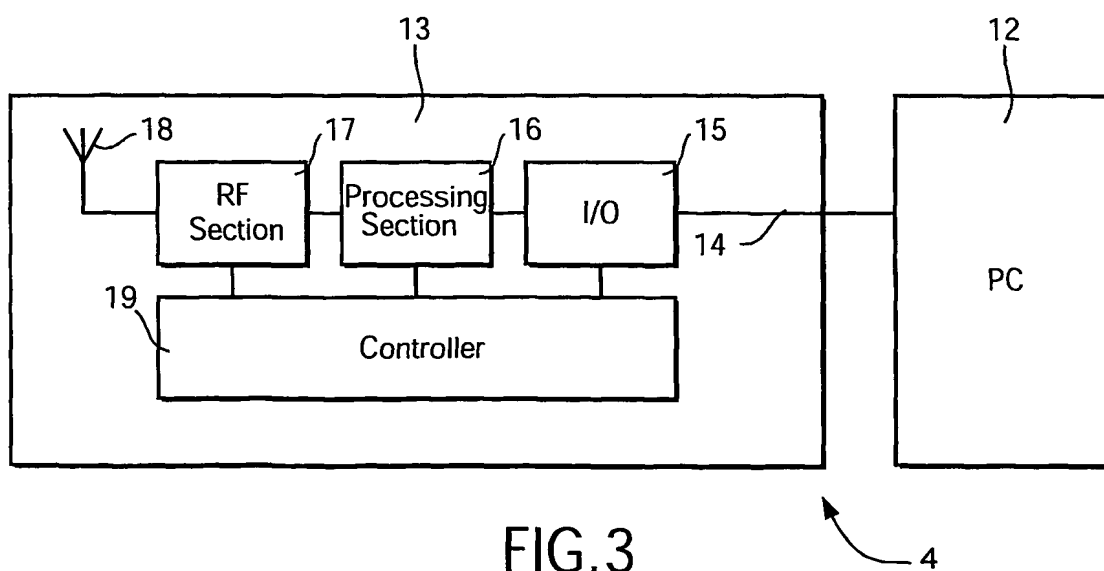
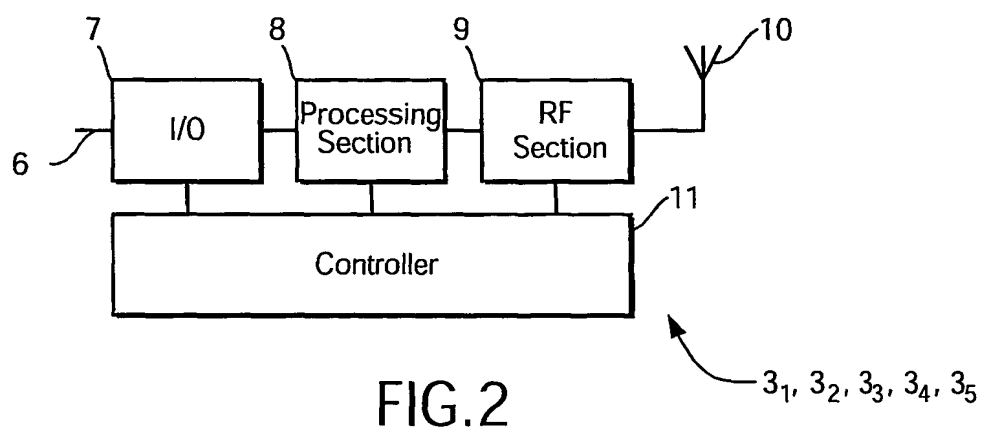
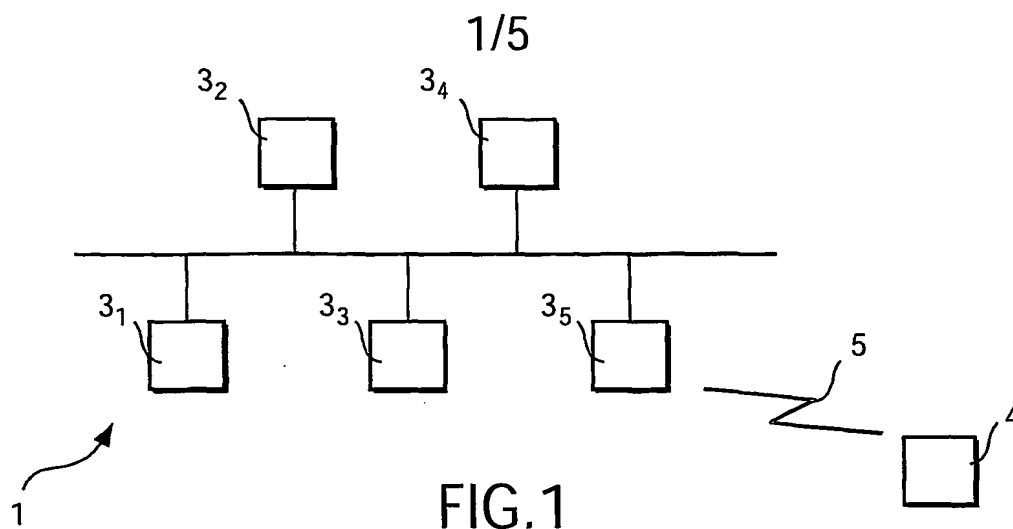
20 a second receiver (18) for receiving said second signal;

a second detector (17, 16) for determining a second signal strength of said second signal at said second receiver;

a second controller (19) for determining whether said second signal strength exceeds a relatively high threshold level so as to locate the mobile

25 unit within a known distance of said means for transmitting said second signal.

19. An access point (3₁, 3₂, 3₃, 3₄, 3₅) configured for use in the system according to any preceding Claim.



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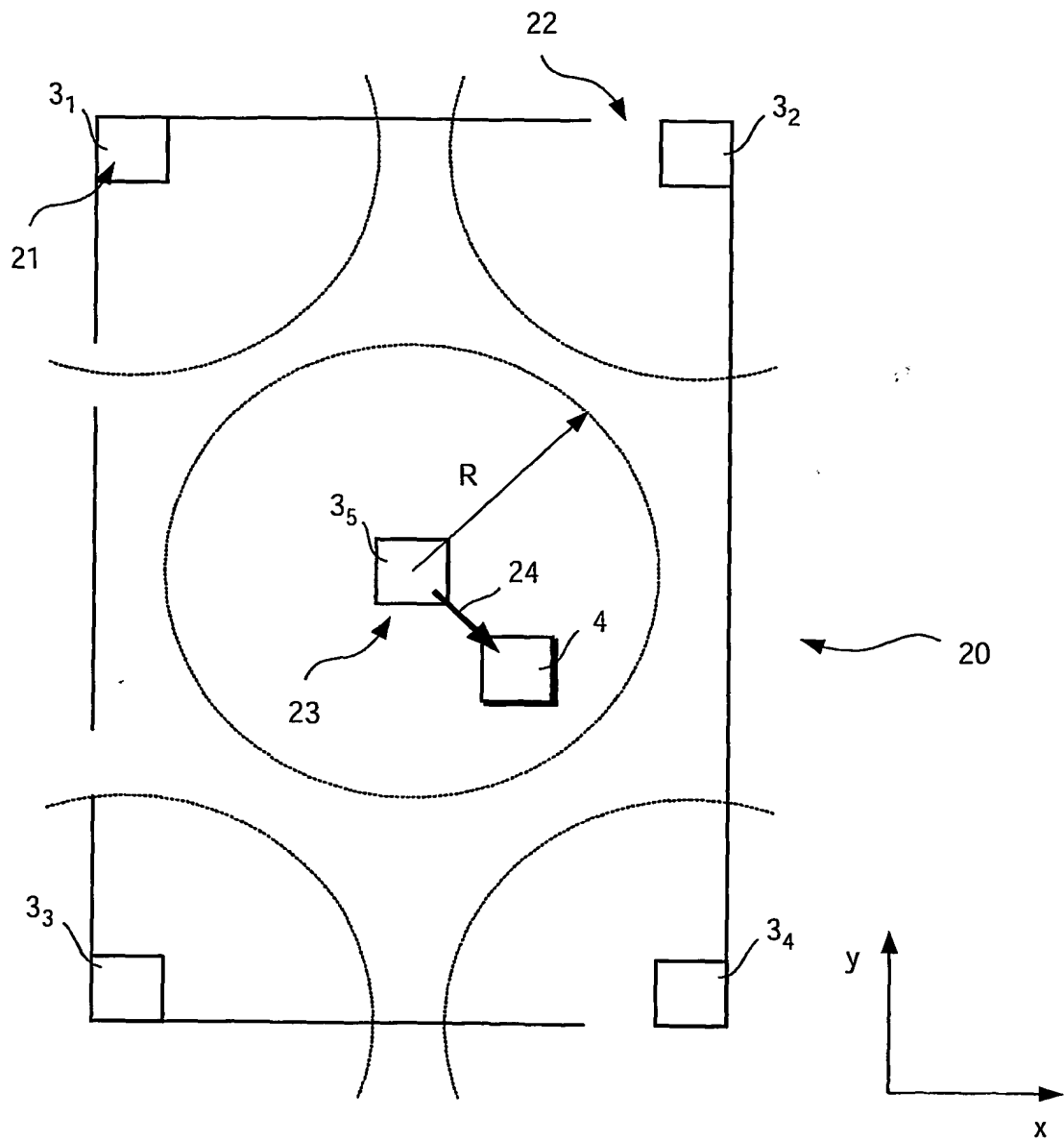


FIG.4

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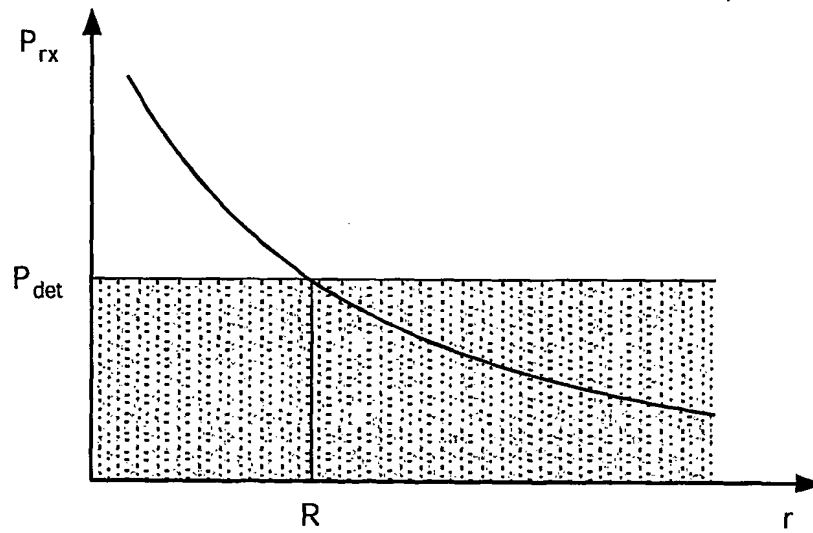


FIG.5

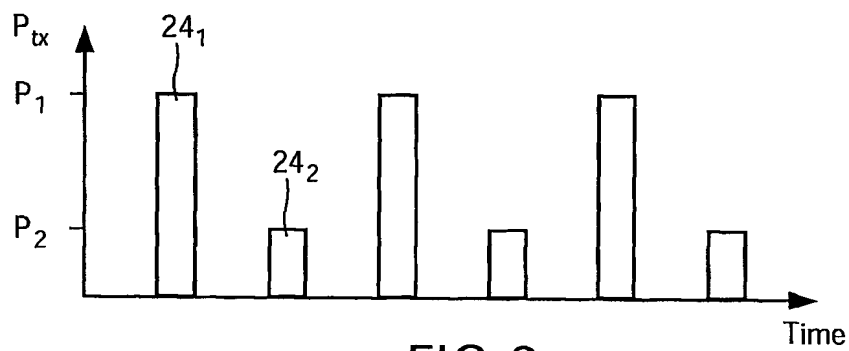


FIG.6

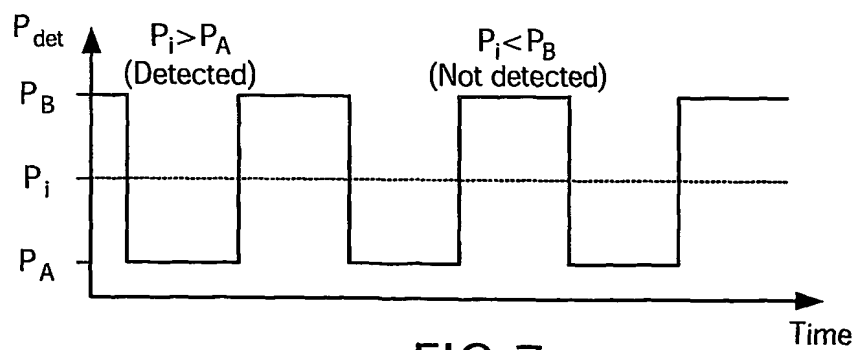


FIG.7

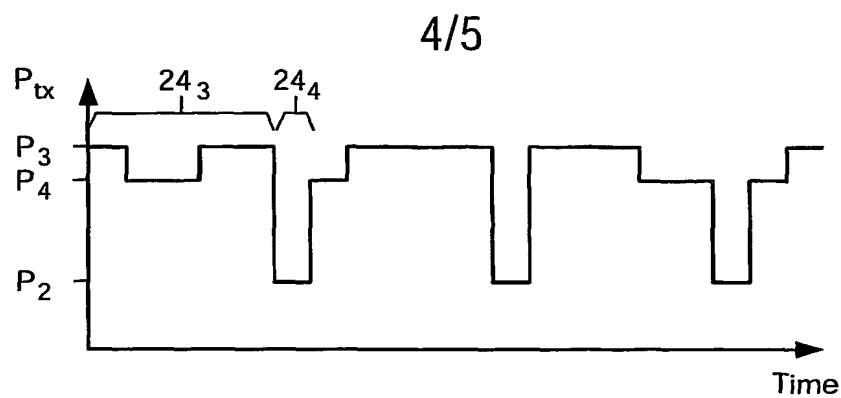


FIG. 8

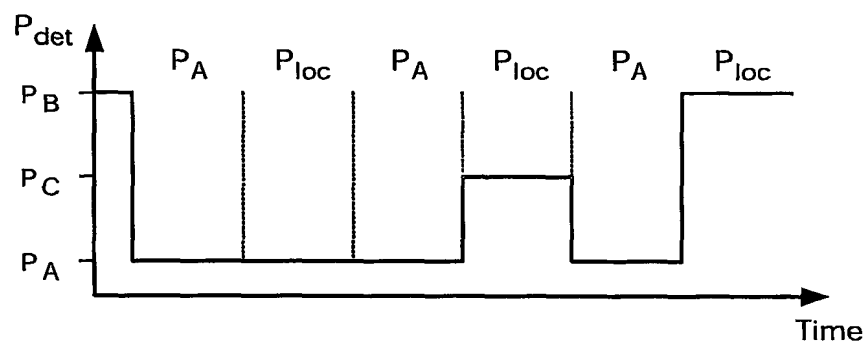


FIG. 9

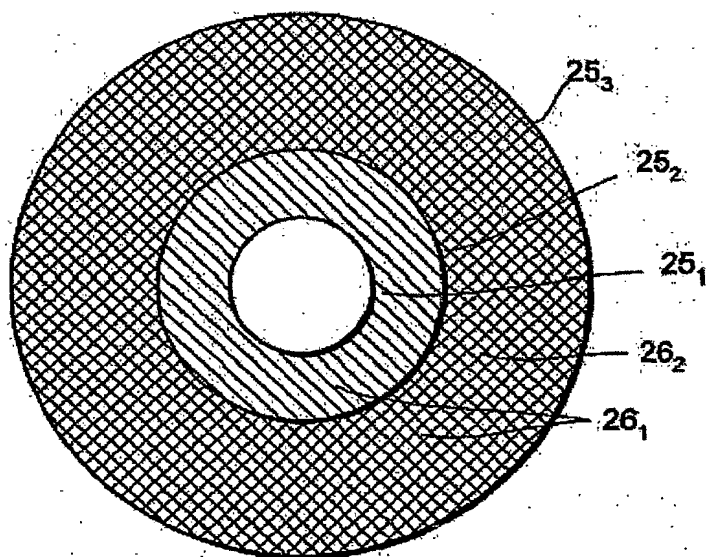


FIG. 10

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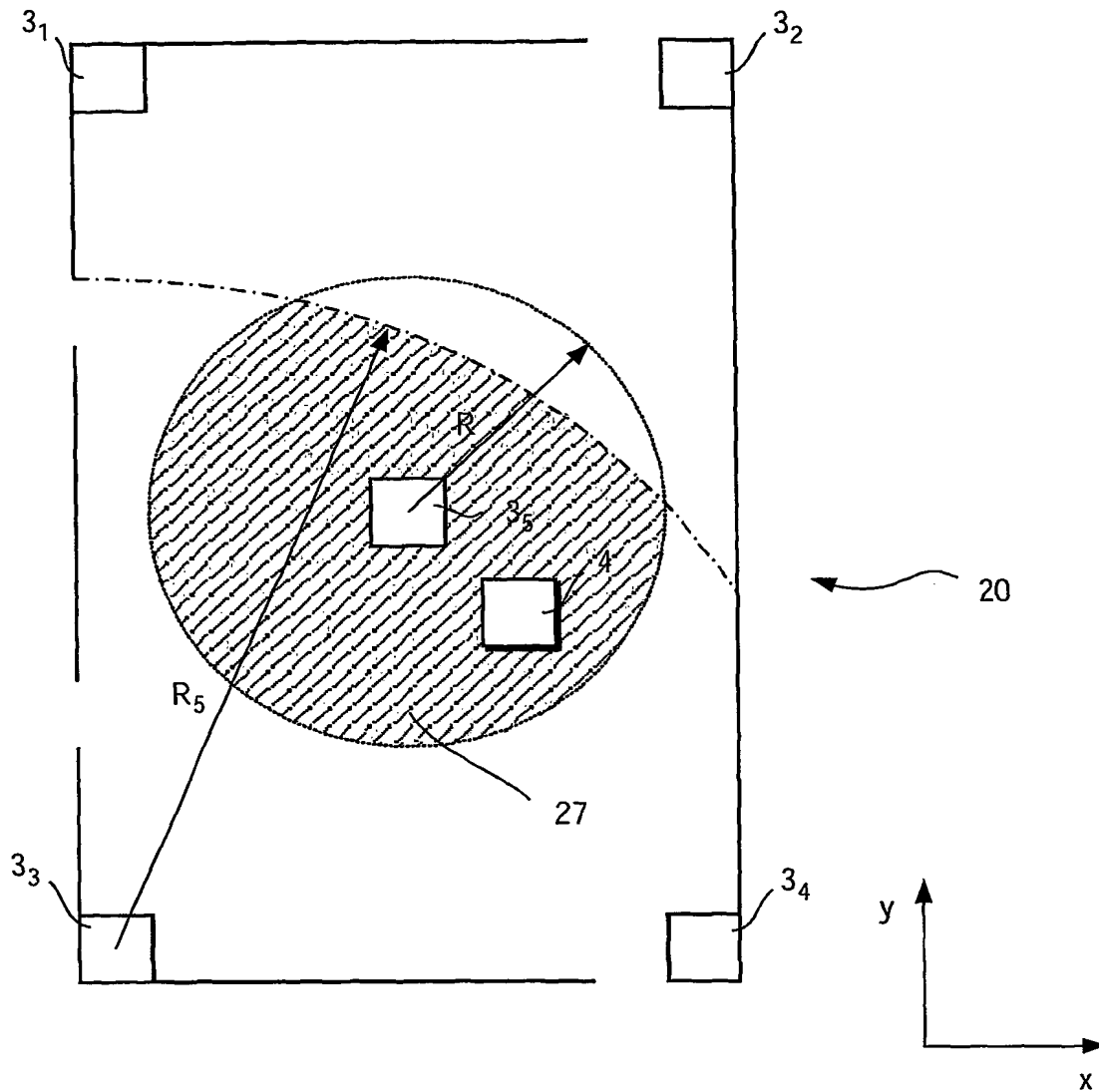


FIG. 11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/03/03222

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04Q7/38 H04L12/56

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H04Q H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EP0-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A A	WO 00 38460 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV) 29 June 2000 (2000-06-29) abstract page 6, line 26 -page 12, line 12 figure 1 US 5 850 609 A (DUPLESSIS PHILLIPPE ET AL) 15 December 1998 (1998-12-15) abstract column 1, line 59 -column 2, line 32 column 2, line 56 -column 3, line 43 figure 1 -/--	1,7-16, 18,19 2-7 1,18

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 September 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

13/11/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Rabe, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/13/03222

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 1 091 611 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 11 April 2001 (2001-04-11) abstract paragraph '0005! - paragraph '0006! paragraph '0018! - paragraph '0023! figure 1 -----	1,18
A	EP 1 139 681 A (HEWLETT PACKARD CO) 4 October 2001 (2001-10-04) column 3, line 18 -column 4, line 57 -----	1,18
A	EP 0 930 514 A (LOCUS CORP) 21 July 1999 (1999-07-21) abstract paragraph '0015! - paragraph '0020! figure 1 -----	1,18,19

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 17
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 17

Independent claim 17 merely contains a reference to the description and drawings.

Said claim therefore does not meet the requirements following from Article 6 PCT taken in combination with Rule 6 (3) (b) PCT that any independent claim must contain all the technical features essential to the invention.

Furthermore, according to Rule 6.2 (a) PCT, references to the description and drawings are allowable only where the reference is absolutely necessary (cf. PCT Gazette, Section IV, S-07/1998, C-III, 4.10). Such is, however, not the case here.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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